

GUILTY LIPS

by LAURA LOU BROOKMAN Author of "MAD MARRIAGE" ©1931 BY NEA SERVICE INC.

BEGIN HERE TODAY
Pretty NORMA KENT, 20-year-old secretary of a son she's in love with, against the opposition of Mark's father, F. M. TRAVERS. The young man is a successful, middle-western metropolis. After an extravagant honeymoon at fashionable Bay Springs the two are back in the city.

It is weeks before the young man can find a job, but when he does, then becomes a floorwalker in a department store. In spite of poverty, he and Norma live a happy life, and the two are in love with each other.

Mark's first assignment involved a business trip to France. Norma must remain at home. She tries to persuade Mark to go, but he refuses.

Norma, rudely treated at her father's in-law's home, skins her coat and leaves the city. Her whereabouts, CHRIS SAUNDERS, Norma's former roommate, helps her find a job. Mrs. CAREY, Mark's mother, employs detectives to trail the girl. They private records to show that Norma has been convicted on a vice charge.

One Sunday afternoon it was a miniature football. Another time a toy airplane. Twice Mrs. Carey from across the hall stayed with the baby while Chris and Norma went driving with Bob.

The two girls were home together one evening late in January. Chris, propped on the davenport with a stack of cushions, suddenly dropped her magazine.

"I thought Bob might come around tonight," she said.

"He telephoned. He's coming to-morrow. I forgot to mention it."

"Beginning to see a good deal of Bob, aren't we?" Chris' words were carefully impersonal.

Normal smiled. "I've noticed that," she agreed. "I-I like to have him come, don't you?"

CHAPTER FORTY (Continued)
IT was a week after that hospital visit that Chris returned home one night with news. "Mr. Stuart is still in town, but he's been released from the hospital.

Chris' son is born. When Little Mark is four months old, Mrs. Carey sends him flowers at Christmas and calls frequently.

NOW GO ON WITH THE STORY

CHAPTER FORTY-ONE

NORMA earned \$55 during the six weeks she typed manuscripts for Frederick Stuart. The sum went to Chris as a first payment on the amount she had borrowed. The original loan of \$250 was mounting astonishingly.

"Lots of time to pay it," Chris always said carelessly when Norma spoke about the debt. Chris would never present a detailed statement of the money she had spent, though she was always promising to do so. Norma's own accounting told her the sum was close to \$1,000.

The \$55 was the barest beginning—little more than enough to pay Norma's share of the rent and food bill for the six weeks.

That was the hopeless part of being in debt. Most of what Norma could earn would be gobbled up by immediate expenses.

It was because this problem was never far from her mind that Norma welcomed the opportunity that came the second week in February even though it involved separation from baby Mark.

"Thank you, Mrs. Carey," Norma said, rising to her feet. "I—I couldn't help but feel worried. It's the first day I've ever left him, you know!"

You've taken beautiful care of him and I'm not going to let myself worry any more. I'll see if I can't be home a little earlier tomorrow night."

"Well, I'll just run along since you're here. I'll have to be getting the supper—" Mrs. Carey disappeared without finishing the sentence.

Chris arrived a few moments later and the two girls soon were busy preparing their own evening meal.

Schooling herself not to worry over the baby's welfare was the hardest part of Norma's new schedule. She liked working with Stuart.

It was true Jennie Clark had been slack about keeping the files in order. Other tasks that should have been attended had been neglected. The accumulated work made Norma's first days in the office unusually busy ones.

Still, there were agonizing moments when she pictured Mark tossing and feverish from some sudden, mysterious illness or his little body shaking with sobs, unable to tell what ailed him.

crowded with delight when he saw it, dressed in bright spangles.

A rattle and gaily-colored string of wooden beads were his first gifts. Chris received a \$50 bonus in her pay envelope Christmas week and spent almost all of it on small remembrances for others. Christmas morning a gorgeous pot of poinsettias arrived for Norma with "Merry Christmas" written on Bob Farrell's card.

Bob had resumed the old habit of dropping in at the apartment. Always a week or more elapsed between these visits. Bob thought the baby amusing, brought him ridiculous presents.

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"Beginning to see a good deal of Bob, aren't we?" Chris' words were carefully impersonal.

Normal smiled. "I've noticed that," she agreed. "I-I like to have him come, don't you?"

"That was nice of him," Norma. In an apron, was busy at the table. "But that wasn't all!" Chris continued. "He asked me if I thought you'd be interested in some work you could do at home. Copying manuscripts.

"It seems a novel's been submitted to him in long hand. He thinks it's going to be a tremendous success, but before it can go to publishers it must be typed."

"I could do it," Norma said eagerly. "Of course I could! I'll rent a typewriter."

"That won't be necessary," Mr. Stuart said he'd send one out. He seems to have a lot of confidence in your work, Norma. Went on to tell me this new secretary doesn't do half as much as you did.

"He wants the finished copy on this novel in two weeks and he's willing to pay \$50 for the job."

"I'll telephone him tonight," Norma announced. "Oh, Chris, I've been so anxious to begin earning something. It's terrible to be in debt! I never had before—really big amounts I mean."

"I'll telephone Mr. Stuart and if he can send the typewriter and manuscript I'll start tomorrow!"

"You're sure you feel well enough? Typing's hard work you know."

"The very sound of the typewriter will be music to my ears. That \$50 looks bigger to me than any amount of money I've ever seen. I'm going to telephone Mr. Stuart right now!"

NEXT day the typewriter and a sheaf of manuscripts arrived at the apartment. When Chris saw how her friend's spirits improved, all doubts about the wisdom of the venture fled. Work certainly agreed with Norma.

Before the two weeks ended in which "Wanling Moon" was transformed from bulky, illegible pages to a stack of neatly typed manuscript, Stuart sent word that he would have more copying for Norma.

He sent out a play and later two short stories with a note saying it was pleasant to find a typist who could be counted on to read intelligently and accurately.

Norma earned \$50 within a month and the sum went to Chris as part payment on her loan. It was December. A dozen times Chris uttered silent prayers of gratitude to Frederick Stuart.

Without knowing it, he was helping Norma over a bad place—perhaps the hardest time since Mark Travers' departure. Just a year before Norma had said goodbye to her husband. Treacherous memories surely must be stabbing at Norma's heart.

Dec. 24 brought a tiny Christmas tree to the apartment for baby Mark. It was a bit of evergreen bought on the street, but Mark

HORIZONTAL SATURDAY'S ANSWER

1 To entice. 14 To pay back. 14 Profound. 43 Insensibility. 15 Hurred. 16 Impostor. 17 External. 18 Breed of swine. 19 Land. 20 Simeon Fess is chairman of the National Committee? 21 Portended. 22 Wasted. 23 Neuter pronoun. 24 Bone of the leg. 25 Hawaiian rootstock. 26 Opium. 27 You and I meaning three. 28 Prefix. 29 Warbled. 30 Automobile. 31 Electrified particle. 32 Noblemen. 33 Cards wool. 34 Surrenders. 35 Molten rock. 36 Deviates. 37 Accomplished. 38 Property. 39 Headed pin. 40 Tissues. 41 Vertical around the teeth. 42 Holder of new

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